

1 We claim:

2 1. A system comprising:

3 a delivery vehicle; ✓

4 a set of packages within said vehicle, said packages having a signal responsive

5 tag; ✓

6 a transmitter for querying one of the signal responsive tags within said vehicle to

7 thereby locate the package corresponding to said signal responsive tag; and ✓

8 means for identifying a package corresponding to said queried signal responsive

9 tag.

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11 2. System of claim 1 wherein said signal responsive tag is an RFID.

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13 3. System of claim 2 wherein said means for identifying comprises at least one light

14 beam source for pointing to said package with a light beam.

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16 4. System of claim 2 wherein said means for identifying comprises a sound

17 generating device or a light source coupled to said RFID.

18

19 5. A system comprising:

20 a delivery vehicle; ✓

21 a set of packages within said vehicle, said packages having at least one signal

22 responsive tag; ✓

1 a transmitter for querying one of the tags within said vehicle to thereby locate the
2 package corresponding to said tag; and

3 a pointing device for identifying a package corresponding to said queried tag.

4
5 6. A system comprising:

6 a delivery vehicle;

7 a set of packages within said vehicle, said packages having at least one signal
8 responsive tag;

9 a transmitter for querying one of the tags within said vehicle to thereby locate the
10 package corresponding to said tag; and

11 an output structure coupled to said tag for providing an audible or visible output
12 identifying the package corresponding to said queried tag.

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14 7. System of claim 6 wherein the tag is an RFID and the output structure is either a
15 light emitting device coupled to the queried RFID for providing a visible output
16 identifying said RFID or a sound emitting device coupled to the queried RFID for
17 providing an audible output identifying said RFID.

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19 8. Method for locating a package within a vehicle comprising:

20 providing a signal for querying a signal responsive tag, said tag being within or
21 affixed to said package within said vehicle;

22 receiving a reply signal from said tag;

1 determining the location of the tag in response to the reply signal and indicating
2 the location of the tag.

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4 9. Method of claim 8 wherein said tag is an RFID and the indicating of said location
5 is accomplished using one or more light beams for pointing toward the RFID.

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7 10. Method for locating a package within a vehicle comprising:
8 providing a signal for querying a signal responsive tag, said tag being within or
9 affixed to said package within said vehicle; and
10 providing an audible and/or visible indication at the location of the tag in response
11 to said querying of said tag.

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13 11. Method of claim 10 wherein said tag is an RFID and said audible indication is
14 provided by a sound-emitting device coupled to the RFID.

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16 12. Method of claim 10 wherein said tag is an RFID and said visible indication is
17 provided by a light-emitting device coupled to the RFID.

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19 13. System comprising:
20 a vehicle for carrying packages;
21 means for determining when the vehicle reaches a destination; and
22 means for generating a list of transactions at said destination when said vehicle is
23 determined to have arrived at said destination.

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A method comprising:
providing a vehicle transporting a set of packages to a destination;
sensing when the vehicle arrives at a destination; and
generating a list of transactions when said vehicle arrives at said destination in
response to said automatic sensing.

15. Method of claim 14 wherein said automatically sensing comprises sensing a RFID
within or affixed to said vehicle.

16. Method of claim 14 wherein a GPS is affixed to the vehicle, said automatically
sensing being performed by said GPS.

17. Method of claim 14 wherein said list of transactions comprises a list of packages
to be taken off of said vehicle and delivered to said destination.

18. Method of claim 14 wherein said list of transactions comprises a list of packages
to be placed on said vehicle from said destination.

19.

System comprising:
a vehicle for carrying packages;
a sensing mechanism for determining when the vehicle reaches a destination; and

1 an output device for providing a list of transactions at said destination when said
2 vehicle is determined to have arrived at said destination.

3
4 20. System comprising:

5 a vehicle for carrying packages;

6 means for determining when the vehicle reaches a destination; and

7 means for automatically communicating a to a purchaser when the goods have
8 arrived at said destination.

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10 21. A method comprising:

11 providing a vehicle transporting a set of packages to a destination;

12 automatically sensing when the vehicle arrives at a destination; and

13 initiating a message to a purchaser when said packages arrives at said destination
14 in response to said automatic sensing.

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16 22. Method of claim 21 wherein said automatically sensing comprises sensing a RFID
17 within or affixed to said vehicle.

18
19 23. Method of claim 21 wherein said automatically sensing comprises sensing RFIDs
20 within or affixed to said packages.

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22 24. Method of claim 21 wherein a GPS is affixed to the vehicle, said automatically
23 sensing being performed by said GPS.

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2 25. Method of claim 21 wherein said sensing device automatically senses when the
3 vehicle has arrived at said destination, said sensing device being coupled via a WAN to a
4 computer system, said computer system initiating a message to a purchaser in response to
5 the arrival of said vehicle.

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7 26. Method of claim 21 wherein said sensing device automatically senses when the
8 packages have arrived at said destination, said sensing device being coupled via a WAN
9 to a computer system, said computer system initiating a message to a purchaser in
10 response to the arrival of said vehicle.

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12 27. System comprising:
13 a vehicle for carrying packages;
14 a sensor determining when the vehicle reaches a destination; and
15 a message transmitter for automatically communicating a message to a purchaser
16 when the goods have arrived at said destination.

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18 28. Method comprising:
19 providing a set of packages on a vehicle, at least some of said packages
20 comprising a signal responsive tag within or affixed thereto;
21 providing a database listing said packages within said vehicle;
22 removing at least some of said packages from said vehicle;
23 scanning the tags within or affixed to said packages; and

1 91 updating said database in response to said scanning.

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3 29. Method of claim 28 wherein said tags are RFIDs and said scanning is
4 accomplished with a scanner, said scanner providing a RF signal for querying said RFIDs
5 and for receiving reply signals generated by said RFIDs in response to said signal for
6 querying, said database being contained within one or more memory devices that are
7 coupled to said scanner via a WAN.

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9 30. Method of claim 28 wherein said tags are RFIDs and said providing of said
10 database comprises scanning the RFIDs of packages loaded onto said vehicle to thereby
11 establish a list of said packages within said vehicle.

12
13 30. Method of claim 28 further comprising querying said database to ascertain the
14 location of said package.

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16 31. System comprising:
17 a destination location, said destination location comprising a scanner for scanning
18 signal responsive tags contained within or affixed to packages;
19 one or more databases comprising a list of packages within a vehicle, said one or
20 more databases being stored within one or more memory devices; and
21 a digital device coupled to said scanner and said one or more memory devices for
22 updating the database as the tags within said vehicle are scanned by said scanner.

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1 32. A method for amalgamating vehicle resources from a plurality of companies, said
2 companies having one or more vehicles for delivering packages to recipients, said
3 method comprising:

4 providing a database of deliveries of packages that need to be made; and
5 communicating delivery instructions to said vehicles via a network, said vehicles
6 picking up packages from one or more points of origin and delivering said packages to
7 selected destinations in response to said delivery instructions, said vehicles being owned
8 by at least a plurality of different companies.

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10 33. Method of claim 32 further comprising:

11 receiving requests for package deliveries;

12 allocating said requests to the vehicles;

13 updating said database of deliveries; and

14 communicating instructions to said vehicles instructing said vehicles where to
15 deliver said packages.

16
17 34. Method of claim 32 wherein said database of deliveries can be accessed by said
18 different companies.

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20 35. Method of claim 32 wherein each of said different companies maintains a
21 database of delivery instructions in a computer system, said method comprising updating
22 the databases of delivery instructions in the computer systems of said different

1 companies, said computer systems of said different companies being coupled to said
2 database of deliveries via a network.

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4 36. Method of claim 32 wherein said network is the internet.

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6 37. Method of claim 32 wherein said vehicles pick up packages at a single point of
7 origin.

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9 38. Method of claim 32 wherein at least some of said packages comprises machine
10 readable indicia, said method further comprising scanning said machine readable indicia
11 and updating a database to indicate when said packages are loaded into said vehicles, said
12 database indicating the locations of said packages.

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14 39. Method of claim 38 wherein said updated database can be accessed by said
15 plurality of companies.

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17 40. Method of claim 38 further comprising updating a plurality of databases in
18 response to the scanning of said machine readable indicia, each of said databases being
19 maintained by an associated one of said companies within said plurality of companies,
20 whereby each of said companies can track the location of said packages.

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22 41. Method of claim 38 wherein said machine readable indicia are provided by an
23 RFID, said indicia being in the form of radio signals.

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2 42. Method of claim 38 wherein at least some of said packages comprises machine
3 readable indicia, said method further comprising scanning said machine readable indicia
4 when said packages are being delivered to update a database that tracks the location of
5 said packages.
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7 43. Method of claim 38 wherein the entities owning said vehicles are compensated
8 based on an interactive bidding system, whereby delivery requests are communicated to
9 said entities, and said entities reply to said requests by bidding on delivery tasks.
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11 44. Method of claim 32 wherein at least some of said vehicles picks up packages from
12 a freight receipt terminal.
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14 45. Method of claim 44 wherein said freight receipt terminal comprises an airport or a
15 rail terminal.
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17 46. Method of claim 45 wherein a first one of said vehicles receives said package
18 from a first location and deposits said package at an intermediate location, and a second
19 one of said vehicles receives said package from said intermediate location and provides
20 said package to a third location.
21

22 47. Method of claim 46 further comprising scheduling the carrying of said package by
23 said first vehicle, wherein said first vehicle is scheduled to travel from said first location

1 to said intermediate location prior to said scheduling the carrying of said package by said
2 first vehicle, the entity operating said first vehicle having a database listing items to be
3 transported by said first vehicle, said scheduling comprising accessing said database via a
4 wide area network to schedule the carrying of said package.

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6 48. Method of claim 32 wherein said communicating delivery instructions comprises
7 communicating a list of packages to be delivered, said list being communicated to an
8 output device, said output device being located at a destination location of one of said
9 vehicles.

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11 49. A system for amalgamating delivery vehicles that are owned by a plurality of
12 companies into a delivery system comprising:

13 a computer system having a database, said database containing a list of deliveries
14 to be made said vehicles that are owned by said plurality of companies; and

15 a communication mechanism for communicating delivery instructions to said
16 vehicles that are owned by different companies.

17
18 50. System of claim 49 wherein said plurality of companies have computers coupled
19 to said computer system via a network so that said plurality of companies can access said
20 database.

1 51. System of claim 49 wherein said plurality of companies have computers coupled
2 to said computer system via a network, said computers maintaining a list of at least those
3 deliveries to be made by vehicles owned by said companies.
4

5 52. System of claim 49 wherein said communication mechanism communicates said
6 delivery instructions to output devices located at delivery destination locations.
7

8 53. A method for providing a delivery system by amalgamating delivery vehicles of a
9 plurality of companies, said method comprising:

10 providing a computer system having one or more databases, said one or more
11 databases tracking the location of a set of packages and a set of deliveries to be made by
12 said vehicles of said plurality of companies;

13 updating said databases when said packages are provided in said vehicles so that
14 said database indicates that said packages are in said vehicles.
15

16 54. Method of claim 53 wherein at least some of said packages contains or is coupled
17 to machine readable indicia for identifying said packages.
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19 55. Method of claim 53 wherein said databases can be accessed by said companies
20 within said plurality.
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22 56. Method of claim 53 wherein each of said companies within said plurality maintain
23 a database indicating the location of at least some of said packages.

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2 57. Method of claim 53 wherein at least some of said packages contains or is affixed
3 to machine readable indicia for identifying said packages, said method further
4 comprising:

5 scanning said machine readable indicia coupled to or contained within said
6 packages; and
7 updating said database in response to said scanning.

8

9 58. System amalgamating the vehicles of a plurality of companies comprising:

10 a computer system having one or more databases, said one or more databases
11 tracking the location of a set of packages and a set of deliveries to be made by the
12 vehicles of said plurality of companies; and

13 a scanner coupled to said computer system for scanning said machine readable
14 indicia, said computer system updating said one or more databases in response to said
15 scanning.

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17 59. A method comprising:

18 providing a computer system having one or more databases, said one or more
19 databases tracking the location of a set of packages and a set of deliveries to be made, at
20 least some of said packages containing or being coupled to machine readable indicia
21 identifying said package;

22 scanning said machine readable indicia when said packages are delivered to a
23 destination; and

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updating said one or more databases in response to said scanning.

- 3 60. A system comprising:
- 4 a computer system having one or more databases, said one or more databases
- 5 tracking the location of a set of packages and a set of deliveries to be made, at least some
- 6 of said packages containing or being coupled to machine readable indicia identifying said
- 7 package;
- 8 a scanner coupled to said computer system for scanning said machine readable
- 9 indicia, said computer system updating said one or more databases in response to said
- 10 scanning.